

Regarding Bill # 666

Good afternoon, Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Lizzie Jabbour, a person in recovery. I am here today to express concern about Bill # 666.

I have been in recovery for 2-1/2 years now. During that time, I was incarcerated shortly, hospitalized for a time, homeless and resided at another sober house for some time. I have been trying to maintain my sobriety which is a daily struggle due to instability and lack of guidance.

I came to Evergreen Sober Home on January 26, 2007 and since my arrival here I have become very grateful for this Christian based Recovery program, and the powerful women who runs it – Pam Allen. I have found some much needed guidance and support that I was lacking. Evergreen Sober Home has provided me with an unending source of strength and stability to draw upon.

Even though I have only been at Evergreen a short while, I have received gross amounts of structure and guidance, enabling me to branch out and begin to work on achieving my goals.

I am now involved in a college course through Advocacy Unlimited to become an advocate for people with mental disabilities and am in the process of enrolling in Gateway Community College in the DARC program to become a drug and alcohol recovery counselor. My life, my goals, my recovery is finding a balance due to the guidance of Pam Allen and Evergreen Sober Home – a balance I was without until recently. I am very thankful for the chance I have been given by the recovery family at the Evergreen Sober Home. This home is the miracle I have been waiting for.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Committee on this extremely important issue. Please do not put in place a statute that may well jeopardize access to housing for persons who are striving to recover their lives and become productive members of society. Please consider working with the Department of Mental Health & Addiction services and the recovery community to accommodate the community needs.

Sincerely,

Lizzie Jabbour,
A Woman in Recovery.